

## An ordinance for establishing a board to liquidate and settle all accounts between the United States and individual states.

**AN ORDINANCE** for **ESTABLISHING** a **BOARD** to **LIQUIDATE** and **SETTLE** all **ACCOUNTS** between the **UNITED STATES** and **INDIVIDUAL STATES**.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED**, By the United States in Congress assembled, that the authority of the commissioners appointed to settle the accounts between the United States and individual states, shall from and after the first day of January next terminate and cease; provided always, that the board of treasury may sooner dismiss any commissioner or commissioners who may be unemployed. That a board to consist of three members, any two of whom shall be a quorum, be appointed, who shall be and hereby are invested with all the powers and authorities of the aforesaid commissioners, and shall fit where Congress may from time to time direct.

That in cases where no written vouchers can be produced for claims founded upon existing resolutions of Congress, and the said board shall receive satisfactory evidence that such vouchers have been destroyed or unavoidably lost, or that from the circumstances of the case, they have never been obtained, the said board may receive such other evidence, as shall be satisfactory to them, provided the same be the best that the nature and circumstances of the case will admit of, and at their discretion may examine on oath, any person or persons they may think fit, respecting the claims exhibited, whether accompanied with written vouchers or not.

That in case where the testimony of a witness not residing within twenty miles of the place where the said board shall sit, shall appear to be essential, the said board are hereby authorised to issue a commission to some proper person or persons, in the county

## Library of Congress

residing near the place of abode of the witness, to take his deposition in writing, with the interrogatories and answers, in presence of the party claimant, his or their attorney, and the person appointed by the said board agent on the part of the United States: And the said board are hereby authorised, to appoint some suitable person to be present as agent of the United States, at the taking of such deposition, to interrogate the witness, and observe that his evidence contain the whole truth, and nothing more: And the said board shall in each commission, notify to the person or persons to whom the said commission may be issued, the name and place of residence of such agent, and the said person or persons shall give due notice in writing to the party claimant, and to the said agent to be present at the taking such deposition, allowing at the rate of one day for every ten miles the most remote of them shall be from the place where the deposition is to be taken.

That it be, and it is hereby recommended to the legislatures of the several states, to pass laws to enable the said board, and the person or persons so commissioned by them, to call before them respectively, witnesses, and examine them on oath or affirmation, in all matters touching the claims exhibited to the said board.

That where any state has assumed to pay its citizens for supplies furnished for the use of the United States, the said board are hereby authorised and instructed, provided the assumptions have been made before the 10th October 1786, to liquidate and settle such claims, agreeably to such rules as have been heretofore established for settling the same, had they remained with the individuals, and accordingly to reject or admit them, as a charge against the United States.

That where any state has claims against the United States, not authorised or sanctioned by existing resolutions of Congress, and the same shall be laid before the said board, within two years after the passing of this ordinance, the board shall examine the same, and report the state of such claims, with their opinion thereon to Congress.

## Library of Congress

That the members of the said board respectively, shall be allowed a salary at the rate of two thousand dollars per annum, to be computed on the time they shall be actually employed in the said service.

That the commission of the board shall continue in force for three years, unless sooner revoked by Congress. **Done, &c.**